

September 12, 2014

Thank you for coming here to listen to our thoughts. There are many excellent solutions for you to help improve the economy in Idaho, and especially in North Idaho, and to solve the riddle of improving the financing of our educational needs at the same time.

The jobs created to responsibly manage our resources will lead to increased local and state revenue and savings. A study by the American Lands Council has shown that lands managed by states are more than ten times more productive than when managed by the federal government. Trained forest management teams – good jobs in North Idaho – would improve the health and value of our wonderful forests and lessen the risk and loss from devastating fires, as well as lessen the expense of fighting those fires. Fewer citizens will be threatened by the losses and more would be encouraged to be good stewards of our land.

A recent news report stated that the Federal Reserve may once again reduce the amount of valuable minerals in U S coins due to a growing shortage of the supply of zinc. Perhaps the Chinese interest in Hall Mountain in Boundary County is in anticipation of that and other rare earth minerals vital to our nation. North Idaho, the State of Idaho and the U S would benefit from your efforts to lead a responsible American utilization of our own natural resources.

The prudent management of the many valuable resources in North Idaho would provide a healthy return on investment for the state's budget and provide a rich source of revenue to stabilize the funding of our public school system, as well. You've heard the numbers before – in the tens of millions, or more.

North Idaho has innovative and resourceful people who want to be productive and to create a place that their children want to come back to. North Idaho would be a good place to create a model – an incubator – for the productive and rewarding management of Idaho's resources. I urge you to give North Idaho a chance to prove it.

James Conlin
229 Sandy Dr.
Cocolalla, Id 83813